



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - November 26, 2002

- ***In the West***, mild, dry weather favors autumn fieldwork, although long-term concerns include drought-reduced irrigation reserves, severely stressed rangelands, and a lack of moisture for the ***Northwestern*** winter wheat crop.
- ***On the Plains***, cold weather is slowing or halting winter wheat development. Concern for the wheat crop is greatest on the ***northern and central High Plains***, where the combination of cold weather and persistent drought conditions have limited the crop's autumn establishment. Meanwhile on the ***southern Plains***, dry weather is promoting late-season cotton, peanut, and sorghum harvesting.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cold weather, accompanied by light snow, is slowing winter wheat development from the ***middle Mississippi Valley to the lower Great Lakes region***, and increasing stress on livestock in the ***upper Midwest***.
- ***In the South***, light rain is hampering final cotton and soybean harvest efforts in the ***Delta***, while locally heavy showers are developing across previously flooded lowlands in ***southern and eastern Texas*** for the first time in three weeks. Meanwhile, dry weather in the ***Southeast*** favors fieldwork, including winter wheat planting and cotton and soybean harvesting.

Outlook: Bitterly cold air will continue to filter into the ***central and eastern U.S.***, as a strong disturbance moves eastward from the ***central Plains***. The system will produce rain and snow in the ***Ohio Valley, Mid-Atlantic, and Northeastern States***. Meanwhile, showers will persist along a stalled cold front in the ***central and western Gulf Coast States***, while another disturbance will increase the threat of rain and high-elevation snow in the ***Southwest***. Warm, dry weather will prevail elsewhere in the ***West***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for December 1-5 calls for below-normal precipitation across the ***Ohio Valley and Pacific Northwest***, while above-normal precipitation is forecast in the ***southern Rockies*** and along the ***Gulf Coast***. Below-normal temperatures are forecast across the ***eastern one-third of the U.S.***, while above-normal temperatures are expected in the ***northern Plains, Rockies, and California***.

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